

Stratasys Introduces Carbon Fiber Material for F123 Series 3D Printers

Strong, lightweight, ABS-based material is specifically formulated for applications such as manufacturing tooling, jigs and fixtures

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. & REHOVOT, Israel--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- <u>Stratasys</u> Ltd. (NASDAQ: SSYS) today introduced a new ABS-based carbon fiber material for its award-winning line of F123 Series[™] 3D printers, the first composite material for the platform. Carbon fiber materials have proven extremely popular on Stratasys' industrial-scale FDM[®] 3D printers for a variety of end-use applications such as jigs, fixtures, and tooling. With FDM[®] ABS-CF10, Stratasys now makes carbon fiber much more accessible to the engineering and manufacturing community with high-performance F170[™], F270[™], and F370[™] 3D printers.

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here: https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20210216005246/en/

ABS-CF10 offers excellent stiffness for alignment tools like this weldment fixture. (Photo: Business Wire)

The material properties of FDM ABS-CF10, featuring 10% chopped carbon

fiber, make it a compelling alternative to metal parts. In fact, the material is 15% stronger and more than 50% stiffer than standard ABS, without the weight of metal, and can be printed with a high degree of accuracy. QSR Support™ water-soluble material makes it possible to 3D print intricate and complex parts without time-consuming manual support removal.

UK-based Marshall Aerospace and Defence Group specializes in the conversion and modification of military, civil, and business aircraft, along with defense vehicle engineering and shelter manufacturing. The company uses both Fortus® 450mc and F370 3D printers for a variety of tooling applications.

"All the tooling we create has different and often unique requirements," said Chris Botting, materials and environmental engineering manager at Marshall. "Our F370 3D printers offer us the flexibility to choose from a wide variety of materials based on application demands while still producing functional parts. 3D printing parts that we historically would have made of metal has led to a significant cost reduction compared to machining the part out of aluminum, while reducing overall part weight. We can't wait to begin to realize the benefits of FDM ABS-CF10 for creating manufacturing aids like we have with our other carbon fiber materials."

Stratasys' internal analysis suggests the additive manufacturing market for polymer jigs and fixtures is expected to grow at a 14.2% annual rate between 2019 and 2023, to nearly \$600

million, double the growth rate of the prior four years. With its FDM ABS-CF10 material, Stratasys is particularly focused on addressing applications in the aerospace, automotive, industrial, and recreational manufacturing industries. Parts applications include end effectors used with industrial robots, ergonomic aids such as lift assists and hand tools, and alignment fixtures on assembly lines.

"There is a reason why manufacturers are increasingly turning to 3D-printed carbon fiber materials," said Stratasys Senior Vice President of Manufacturing Dick Anderson. "It's incredibly strong, versatile, and lightweight. We want to enable all our FDM customers to take advantage of those material characteristics. Introducing FDM ABS-CF10 is a significant step in growing 3D printing's presence in the global manufacturing industry."

The FDM ABS-CF10 material is scheduled to be available in April 2021, and orders are being taken now. Learn more about carbon fiber material for the F123 Series online.

Stratasys is a global leader in polymer-based additive manufacturing or 3D printing technology and is the manufacturer of FDM, PolyJet™, P³, and stereolithography-based 3D printers. The company's technologies are used to create prototypes, manufacturing tools, and production parts for industries, including aerospace, automotive, healthcare, consumer products and education. For more than 30 years, Stratasys products have helped manufacturers reduce product-development time, cost, and time-to-market, as well as reduce or eliminate tooling costs and improve product quality. The Stratasys 3D printing ecosystem of solutions and expertise includes 3D printers, materials, software, expert services, and on-demand parts production.

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